years of the 8th plan period. The opinion of international experts are taken as and when required.

Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline

3593. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to lay the pipeline for natural gas between India and Oman; if so, whether the feasibility of the project was considered;

(b) whether Government had discussed the matter with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Oman during the last week of March, if so, the details and the outcome thereto; and

(c) what steps Government are considering to take on the feasibility of this ambitious project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) In terms of the Agreement on Principal Terms signed with Oman in 1994, the Oman Oil Company took up the feasibility study for the Oman India Gas Pipeline. The feasibility study is yet to be completed. A Joint working Group has been formed between GAIL and Oman Oil Company to expedite the feasibility study and to identify possible sources of finance for the project.

Gas Reserve along Orissa Coast

3594. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas reserves have been detected along Orissa Coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the investment plans for extracting gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

East Coast Refinery Plan

3595. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the East Coast Refinery Plan has been approved;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating its site and by when the work of the project would start; and

(c) by when it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation has in Principle approval to set up a 6 MMTPA joint venture refinery in the East Coast. IOC has submitted a Detailed Feasibility Report which includes the subject of site selection and the same is under process of investment approvals. The implementation of the project is expected to take approximately 46 months for mechanical completion from the date of Government approval.

Setting up of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

3596. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINIISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstared Question 1400 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 1997 and state:

(a) what is the present stage of the proposal to create Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC);